

JUNE 1969

one shilling

POINT THREE is the
monthly magazine
of Toc H



point three

The scourge of T.B. . . . 102

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Central Council full
report. 110

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment: 1. to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man; 2. to give personal service; 3. to find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others; 4. to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

June 1969

On the Cover—

During a festival week organised by Birmingham University, students Noel Berridge and Christopher Harris built this rope bridge at Mark VI, Birmingham. It is just part of a hazardous assault course in the grounds of the Mark which is much enjoyed by young visitors. Another photograph appears in Newspoint.

Photo: Birmingham Post & Mail

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Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement

viewpoint

have we the vision?

As reported elsewhere in this issue the Central Council meeting was, to say the least, disappointing. It was disappointing, particularly, because of its failure to discuss any of the real policy issues facing Toc H today.

One of the questions that I feel might at least have been mentioned is the almost total failure of Toc H in urban areas. For too long, it seems to me, too great a proportion of our resources have been devoted to the growth of Toc H in rural areas and too little to making an impact in the cities and large towns, where, after all, an ever increasing proportion of the population live. The time has come, I believe, to redress the balance.

If we really have anything to say about community it is surely in the cities, where the breakdown of community has been most obvious, that we should be saying it. If we are really concerned to meet human need it is surely in the cities, where social injustice is seen most starkly, as much as in the country, that we should be meeting it. And yet in the heart of most of Britain's cities Toc H has virtually ceased to exist.

The examples of, for example, Mark III in Hackney and Mark VI in Birmingham suggest that failure in the inner city is not something which must be accepted fatalistically as an inevitable fact of life. There is no reason why we should not make a similar impact in other urban situations, if we wish to do so. But here, of course, we come back to the question of priorities, which is inevitably central to any discussion of future policy.

To build Toc H in the cities of Britain requires a conscious decision to place this first on our list of priorities, and a willingness to divert resources, of money and manpower, from other work. It would be a major decision and one not lightly taken, but there are those who believe that unless a shift of emphasis of this kind takes place Toc H will become increasingly irrelevant.

This is not in any way to belittle the past achievements of the Movement nor to disparage the Branch structure as it now exists. It is rather to suggest that the existing membership is capable not merely of maintaining but of extending the Movement in areas where it is already strong. It is to suggest that the staff can best serve the Movement by seeking to spread Toc H in areas where at present it is non-existent. Have we the courage and the vision to adopt such a policy?

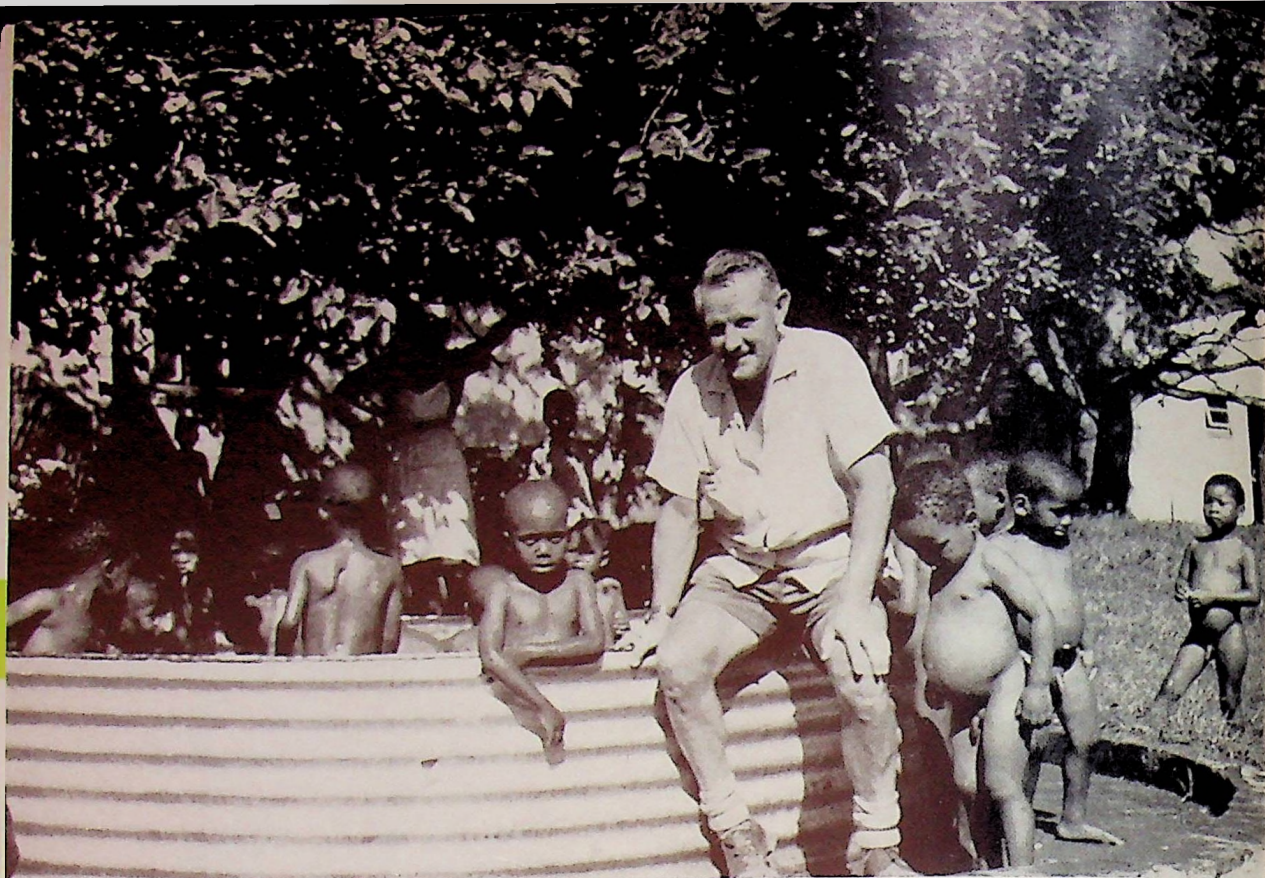
Of course, before we can be in a position to take a decision of this kind we must be quite clear what we mean by building Toc H in the cities, by making an impact in urban areas. By what kind of criteria is an operation of this kind to be judged?

It surely goes without saying that complete flexibility of approach will be essential. Mark I, Mark III and Mark VI have already demonstrated three quite different methods of work and no doubt other approaches will be developed in places where no building is available for use as a base. Equally, to judge success solely by the number of new members enrolled would be unrealistic. But to say this doesn't really get us very much further.

The danger is that we simply salve our consciences by paying someone to do a piece of social work in our name, work which may be of value but which nonetheless has no real connection with the purposes of Toc H. If we go into urban areas it must be to try and build a sense of community, to try and help those with whom we come into contact to deepen their sense of commitment to people.

To commit our resources to more work in the city would be a bold and difficult decision. To work out the criteria by which such work could be judged would require careful thought. The temptation, of course, is to take the easy way out and do nothing; but to yield to that temptation would, in my view, be disastrous.

K.P.B.



T.B.—cured but not prevented

A new pattern of after-care work is developing at Etembeni, the T.B. Settlement at Botha's Hill, founded by Don McKenzie and closely associated with Toc H in South Africa. On a brief expedition similar to the one he made last year with Don to meet the "Children of the Valley", ALEC CHURCHER was recently able to see a little of the way it is beginning to work, and here records his impressions and comments.

One of the great problems which confronts all those working to try and deal with the scourge of tuberculosis in Africa is the fact that, all too often, when patients are discharged as cured from a hospital or settlement, they have to return to the very conditions which were largely responsible for producing the disease in them.

In the picturesque but impoverished Valley of a Thousand Hills, among the folds of which lies Etembeni—the "Place of Hope"—on the borders of Zululand, hopes of a final and lasting cure for those who return rejoicing to their villages are for this reason not infrequently disappointed. The campaign for funds, launched by Toc H in its Jubilee Year, was to provide help for the Etembeni Committee to do something about after-care.

At first an effort was made by the employment of two women Home Visitors (both Africans) and an Agricultural Demonstrator (also African)—and all now, in fact, paid for by the government health service—to keep touch with discharged patients, to advise as to diet and the continuation of treatment and to help the small communities to which they returned to make the best use of their land in growing food, providing, from the Toc H fund, for the supply of fencing, tools, seeds, etc., wherever these were needed and could be put to good use. In practice, and after long and painstaking experience, it has been found that this plan has resulted in a great diffusion of effort. T.B. sufferers began to come to Etembeni from over a vast area of perhaps 100 square miles and it was beyond the physical powers of the Home Visitors to maintain regular and effective contact over so wide an area, where there are often no roads and the only possible way of getting around is on foot. The same applied to the Agricultural Demonstrator and to the Health Educator, also paid for by the government health department, now added to the team.

Smaller area

The Committee, therefore, taking a realistic view of the situation, have decided to try the experiment of confining their efforts to a much smaller area within comparatively easy reach of the Settlement and to attempt a more limited but more intensive campaign. Thanks to Jimmy Hall, the Warden of Etembeni, I was able to see for myself how this new plan, still in its early and experimental stage, is beginning to operate.

With "Sonny" Koswayo, the Agricultural Demonstrator, at the wheel and Jimmy and me squeezed together in the front seat of the Settlement's all-purpose truck, we drove first along the good tarred roads of Botha's Hill and Hillcrest, then on to the rutted dust-roads of

the non-white area and finally on barely discernible tracks across country until we came to Molweni, the district selected to be the centre of the experiment.

This consists of a heart-shaped stretch of country, approximately a mile by a mile-and-a-half in extent. The Umgeni river flows through the area, though "flows" is hardly the word. In times of drought like the present a tiny, and in places hardly visible, trickle along the wide rocky river bed is all that there is to serve the needs of the entire community.

In this comparatively small area there are 43 notified cases of T.B. How many more unnotified cases there are is anybody's guess. In the three schools which serve the scattered villages 196 children recently showed a positive reaction to the HEAF test.

Midday meals

Our first stop was at a school, similar to the one I had visited last year at Bazamile, for the three schools in the area are to be the key points of the campaign. In addition to developing a demonstration vegetable garden at each of them, worked by teachers, children and parents together under the regular supervision of Sonny Koswayo, there will be talks to parents about the right use of their own plots of land, made real by the sight of what the school has been able to achieve, and talks on diet, hygiene, cooking, health precautions, etc., by the Health Educator. It is hoped that

OPPOSITE. George Duguid keeps a careful eye on some of the patients. **BELOW.** "Sonny" Koswayo examines the drought stricken school garden. The headmistress looks on. *Photos: Alec Churcher.*





"Sonny" and Jimmy Hall view the area where demonstration gardens will be planned. Survival could depend on them. *Photo: Alec Churcher.*

the gardens will also provide enough vegetables, etc., for regular midday meals, otherwise lacking, for the children. Need I mention that the schools are also visited by Don McKenzie, now in charge of a T.B. immunisation scheme for school children under the government health department. He is, in fact, very much at the centre of this scheme which he whole-heartedly approves.

When patients are discharged from Etembeni and return to this area the Home Visitors will be able to keep in regular touch with them and ensure that necessary treatment is continued; the Agricultural Demonstrator will help them to start their own home gardens, supplying fencing, tools, seeds, etc., through the Toc H fund as before. Gardens further afield, started before the new plan, will as far as possible be maintained.

Illegal water

With Jimmy Hall and Sonny Koswayo I was able to visit two of the three schools and to see the start of the gardens, under the worst possible conditions of drought—vegetable plants sere and withered for lack of water and the mealies lank, brown and hopeless. But some terracing of the land had been begun. The soil seemed mostly sand, covered with a coarse couch grass. It reminded me of the sand dunes on parts of the Norfolk coast, only here rock is only a foot or two down. At the second school in the neatly fenced garden, sun-hemp, suitably innoculated, had been planted to try and restore some nitrogen to the arid soil and, though destined soon to be cut and dug back into the earth, made a brave show. Mrs. Makhaye, the headmistress, was lost in

admiration at this scant achievement, saying that she had never thought anything at all could be grown. Given rain and more normal conditions these school gardens, and others like them near the homes of discharged Etembeni patients, will in time demonstrate what can and what must be done if malnutrition, the prime cause of T.B., is to be combated and the children of the valley given a comparable expectation of life to their more fortunate white counterparts. Sonny Koswayo certainly has a man sized job.

On the way back to the Settlement we passed a young African girl carrying a ten-gallon drum of water on her head. This, I was told, had probably been "tapped" from the main water pipeline which runs through the valley to Durban. Illegal, of course, but I can't say I blame her. In all fairness it should be said that there are plans for a great water-purifying scheme which should ultimately help to solve the water problems of the area. White areas, too, have been grievously affected by the drought and though the soil is better there and they are better equipped to combat it, their plight in many places is serious.

A new rest room

In the evening I sat on the verandah of Jimmy's house and watched the colour slowly fade from the landscape while across the valley a pale dead shilling of a moon transformed itself into a luminous golden sovereign as it climbed above us. George and Daisy Duguid, who have succeeded Jack and Molly Hayes, as Deputy Warden and House-keeper, joined us and we talked about the Settlement's work. Since my last visit, there had been some improvements—a new rest room, furnished by Alan Paton in memory of his late wife, and a small new isolation ward for seriously ill patients. Water, for which they were until recently dependent on their own small dam, now comes from the main pipe line. There are beds for 73 adults (all men) and for 183 children. All are almost always full. The hopeful thing is that most are able to leave after an average stay of six months or so, free of the disease. How long they remain free of it must largely depend on the conditions to which they return. This is the problem to which the Settlement Committee devotes much of its thinking. This is the problem which the fund provided by Toc H in Jubilee Year is helping to solve.



citizens' advice bureaux

BRIAN DICKSON

Helping Citizens' Advice Bureaux, either as a member of their voluntary staffs or as organiser (if one has the gift) is a rewarding form of service for ageing members of Toc H living in retirement, or indeed for younger members of the fair sex with time to spare.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux exist to make available to the individual accurate information and skilled advice on many of the personal problems that arise in daily life, to explain legislation, to help the citizen to benefit from and to use wisely the services provided for him by the State, and in general to provide counsel to men and women of all ages on the many difficulties which beset them in an increasingly complex world.

There are now nearly 500 of these bureaux in the United Kingdom staffed by about 5,000 voluntary workers and consulted by more than one million people every year, while bureaux have also been established in seven countries overseas i.e. Australia, Guyana, Hongkong, India, Israel, Rhodesia and South Africa.

In our local bureau we have at present a staff of twelve, all volunteers, all very conscious of how little they know themselves as individuals, but collectively possessing a wide range of experience and being much wiser than they realise for, as the poet T. S. Elliott said, "There is no wisdom but the wisdom of humility". How true that is!

Respect for personality

Some of the cases that come to us are complex, extremely sad and difficult or even impossible to help. All we can do then is to listen with sympathy, patience and understanding. We must always remember that we are dealing with people as individuals, not as "a housing problem" or "a consumer complaint", and we must show that we realise this and respect their individual personality. In 1946 Victor Gollancz published a small book called *Our Threatened Values*. In it he wrote, "Our central value—or, to put it another way, the value that includes all our other values—is respect for personality. This value of values is today everywhere threatened.

In thought, in speech, in act, it suffers hourly dishonour . . . This, and not the atom bomb, is the major threat to our civilisation."

Those words are as true today as when they were written over 20 years ago. (Can we not see examples of this in the field of race relations and in the anguish of homelessness so well portrayed in *Cathy Come Home*?) So, when people come to the Citizens' Advice Bureau to pour out their troubles to a complete stranger rather than to the next door neighbour whom they see every day, we must respect their confidence and remember "this value of values".

Some days seem full of sadness and tragedy, but there is a lighter side too. One day we had a 'phone call from a lady who wanted a "boar" guinea-pig, she having bought for her children two lady guinea-pigs by mistake. Believe it or not, we found a "boar" guinea-pig for her within twelve hours, and the Citizens' Advice Bureau stock went right up!

Another day the Samaritans asked us to help one of their clients to find a No. 2 wife, his first having walked out and left him a very lonely man. But we had to tell him that this was rather exceeding our brief and he must do his own courting.

Then there is the story, which surely must be true, of the very shy young man who got engaged and wanted some advice about honeymoons and married life. As there was no Marriage Guidance Council in the town he went to the Citizens' Advice Bureau and they advised him to walk across to the public library. Too shy to tell the buxom young lady at the desk the kind of reading matter he needed he looked around on his own, and eventually he found quite a tome entitled "How to Hug". He thought that would do to start with, and when he opened it at home he found he'd got the Seventh Volume of Encyclopaedia Britannica!

Yes, Citizens' Advice Bureau work is sometimes amusing, often sad and frustrating, but taken all in all, it is great fun and that is as it should be because helping people is fun as so many of us have found in Toc H. So why not give the Citizens' Advice Bureaux a thought?

personality point

Vera Harley has been asked to act as General Secretary of Toc H for a period of three months from June 1, 1969.

Toc H Central Executive 1969/70: Harry O. Brier, Michael J. Bullock, Edward Curry, Roland E. Gill, Philip Jacques, Harry D. Mills, Dr. S. F. Mitchell (Chairman), Cyril A. Rowley, Ralph S. Thorne, Jacques P. Weber, Donald J. Wilde. **Ex-officio:** the Rev. P. B. Clayton (Founder Padre), Sir Alexander Giles (Director), the Rev. A. G. Knight (Administrative Padre), George W. U. Liddle (Hon. Treasurer).

Toc H Women's Association Central Executive 1969/70: Mrs. M. Berry (Chairman), Mrs. B. Cornick, Miss D. Edwards, Mrs. Y. Frymann, Mrs. N. Griffiths, Mrs. R. Griffiths, Miss J. Lunniss, Miss B. Pugh, Mrs. J. Rauch, Mrs. D. Roberts, Miss S. Rowan-Hamilton, Miss E. Vellam. **Ex-officio:** Sir Alexander Giles, Miss V. Harley, the Rev. A. G. Knight, G. W. U. Liddle.

The Central Council confirmed the appointment of **Sir Alexander Giles** as Director of Toc H and of the Women's Association, and as Director-designate of the integrated Movement.

The following re-appointments were also confirmed: **the Rev. A. G. (Bob) Knight** as Administrative Padre of Toc H and Hon. Chaplain of the Women's Association; **Miss Vera Harley** as General Secretary of the Women's Association; and **George Liddle** as Hon. Treasurer of Toc H and the Women's Association.

welcome point

The following new Branches were formally recognised by the Central Executives at their May meeting:

Thornaby-on-Tees (Joint),
Winsham (Joint),
Woking (Joint).

The following Branches elected new members during the month:

- 5—Shelthorpe (W.A.), Singapore (W.A.), Stirling (W.A.).
- 4—Long Eaton (W.A.), Nairn (W.A.), Owton Manor (W.A.).
- 3—Huddersfield (Joint, Youth Action).
- 2—Broughton Astley (W.A.), Dartford (W.A.), Ilminster, Knightthorpe, Leatherhead, St. Austell, Shrewsbury.
- 1—Blaenau Ffestiniog, Bridlington (W.A.), Burraton (W.A.), Chepstow (W.A.), Coomb, Coventry, Crieff, Dalton-in-Furness (W.A.), Eastleigh (Joint), Eynsford, Gravesend, Guernsey Northern, Hemel Hempstead (W.A.), Hereford, Heswall, Hoveton & Wroxham, Humberstone (W.A.), Leicester (W.A.), Margate, Maybush (Joint), Middlewood, Moseley (Joint), Nantwich & Crewe, Newbury, Newbury (W.A.), Oswestry, Penarth, Ramsgate (W.A.), St. John's (Sevenoaks) (W.A.), Saffron Walden, Sanderstead, Shavington, Spalding (W.A.), Stonehouse, Ulverston (W.A.), Wellington (Salop.), Weybridge (W.A.), Woodford (W.A.), Workington (W.A.).

83 new members were elected during April, to whom we extend a warm welcome.



Frank Dupont, Warden of the Toc H Club in Verden, Germany, is now well again after his injury. Council gave him a very warm welcome.

notices

Oxford & Thames Valley Area invites Branches to its Festival on Saturday, July 12. The cost of 8s. per member includes high tea in the hall of Christ Church. For bookings and particulars write to Mrs. Jean Coles, 14 Yarnell's Hill, North Hinksey, Oxford.

There will be a **Quiet Weekend** at Alison House, July 11-13. Arranged by the Bordon Company. Open to all. Cost: £2 15s. Enquiries to Bob Knight at Headquarters.



MICHAEL JONES

The Croydon Centre has a reputation for its willingness to tackle the unusual. The "cole 'ole" coffee bar, which operates from the basement three nights a week, is a favourite meeting place, and sometimes a fighting place, for many of the young gangs and hippie "fringers" of the area. Until a short while ago, when a membership purge was carried out, there were more than 300 members. Simon Allard's pioneer work with ex-prisoners and young offenders, described in the *Life behind Bars* series of articles in *Point Three*, is gaining support and momentum from many parts of the Movement. It's not surprising, therefore, that the successor to Ian Chapman as Assistant Warden, should also possess some unusual qualities. Michael Jones, aged 26, more than fits that description. Before joining the staff he was the principal of a driving school, a statement which speaks volumes for his patience and courage! For some time before that he travelled and worked in France and Portugal, learning the languages and meeting people. It was while he was in Portugal that he was arrested for alleged spying and flung into a Portuguese prison where he was kept for a month. Perhaps that explains why he has got such a fierce interest in the welfare and rehabilitation of ex-prisoners in this country.

DON WILDE

The youngest member of the Central Executive Committee of Toc H, elected at Swanwick in April, is Don Wilde, a Planning Engineer from Derby. Don is 25 years old and became a member in the Beds & Herts area when he was 16. In 1965 he went to Central Africa with the Dennis Etheridge team and worked on a number of Toc H projects there. He is particularly interested in youth work and



Liz Murray

The Toc H scene in Bristol is brightened considerably by the presence of Liz Murray, a former resident of Talbot House, Trinity Square, and a Toc H volunteer. Liz, aged 20, has joined the voluntary staff to assist Donovan Cattell with projects organisation in the region.

She was educated at Farringdon County Grammar School, Wantage, and Oxford School of Art. During her sixth form year she joined King Alfred's School Mobile Action group. For a while Liz studied law in London but there came a time when she "couldn't stand the cobwebs of the system any longer" and left to work for Toc H. In the autumn she may return to college, by which time she hopes to have finally decided on her future career. It's good to see young, energetic people joining the staff in this way. Liz has a useful fund of ideas to further Toc H projects and her contribution to the Western Region is already firmly on record.

General Secretary

The Central Executive Committees invite applications from members of the staff and the membership for the appointment of General Secretary to the integrated Movement.

Applications, in writing, to be addressed to The Director-designate, Toc H, 15, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3. The envelopes should please be marked 'Personal' and should reach Headquarters by June 30, 1969.

has been responsible for organising schools' weeks at Dor Knap and a new Volunteer Group in Derby after a project in the city. He is a member of the Derby District Team and acts as Youth Liaison Officer for Graeme Branch. A photograph appears on page 114.

MISTER FIVE PER CENT

In a recent television programme, only 5% of the studio audience indicated that they feared muscular dystrophy.

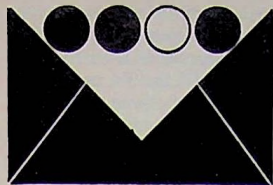
We know a few thousand parents who think differently—their children are suffering from it.

Their only hope lies in the research into a cure we can finance from voluntary donations. If we had more money, we could buy a lot more hope.

Will you prove your concern for the children suffering from this terrible disease by sending us a small gift of money? You may never be a TV star, but you'll be very important in the eyes of these children.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY GROUP OF GREAT BRITAIN

Room 3, 26 Borough High Street, London, S.E.1.



Letters are welcomed. But the Editor reserves the right to use extracts as space permits.

Symbol

Although I like the new Toc H symbol, after the discussion at the Central Council it was with mixed feelings that I showed it to my niece and two friends on my return home. Now these people know nothing of Toc H except what I have told them about it but they all said the same thing—about light, and world-wide thinking, and added what a lovely symbol it was and my niece thought it worth every penny spent on it.

If these people who are outside the Movement can see the beauty and significance of the symbol, why can't we?

Like Marjorie Berry, when I first saw it I thought "how awful!", but now I like it.

Freda N. Hurt

Mansfield, Notts.

Shelter

It was with considerable shock and amazement that during the final minutes of this year's Central Council meeting I realised that the former Hon. Treasurer and the former Administrator had got a resolution passed, "with acclamation", that Toc H would do all in its power to support *Shelter*. Surely this must be repudiated by the powers that be. It followed so closely the report in your April issue of a meeting arranged by Toc H in Sevenoaks. I was appalled then, especially as an article on the opposite page referred to the plight of sub-normals, a group hardly anyone supports.

Surely we have causes of our own which we should and must support if we are not going to throw away all our efforts, and what little money-raising ability we have, on organisations which have a pretty popular following already.

If Toc H units would like a cause within the Movement for which to raise money, then may I suggest the housing of working sub-normals as a cause more worthy of our efforts. We have this problem here in the West Surrey Joint District, and it must be the same elsewhere. We are dependent on several hundred sub-normals who work in our communities, in hospitals, laundries, refuse disposal, transport, nurseries, parks and gardens, and so on, in spite of the fact that they have to go back to institutions, and in many cases be "locked in" at an early hour each evening.

We here are now expecting planning per-

mission to open a residential hostel/centre to provide a home for about 20 of these people which will serve as a stepping stone into full partnership and citizenship of our town. The local authority is backing us to the full, but we will need an outlay of £15,000 to purchase the premises, not to mention large sums to equip and furnish the centre which will be the base for all our activities in West Surrey.

The time has come when we must stop this nonsense of supporting outside causes when our own needs stare us in the face, needs about which we *must* do something or we fail in our ideals, one of which, surely, is *not* to give our money away to other charities.

If you would care to help us, we should be delighted. Contributions should be sent to W. T. (Bill) Crook, 23 Common Close, Horsell, Woking, Surrey.

Joint Branch Pilot.

Woking, Surrey.

Note: We are informed that the relevant Minute of the Central Council meeting reads as follows:—"S. V. Berwick proposed that a message of greeting be sent to Lord Colgrain, one of our Presidents, at present in hospital, wishing him speedy recovery and assuring him of support in his efforts to aid the 'Shelter' movement: the proposal was agreed by acclamation." Editor.

Falling membership

Regarding this vexed question, I thought Les Rendell's letter very constructive and do agree that the points raised are possible reasons for the decline in membership. I agree especially that "members are embarrassed or ignorant when asked 'What is Toc H?'" and that "being informal doesn't mean being disorganised". From experiences I have had, to improve the situation it would appear necessary to get back to the grass roots, i.e. to instruct probationers on Toc H. By being too informal there is a tendency for sponsors to leave it to each other to instruct: consequently the probationer learns very little and, when initiated, soon falls into the category of being too embarrassed or too ignorant to explain Toc H. There is also lack of guidance on the best method of developing new units when the opportunity arises.

The answer is, to be more organised. Let Districts train leaders (volunteers from each Branch), whose prime function will be to train probationers in their Branch instead of leaving it to the sponsors.

Mary Birnie.

Wolverhampton.

★ Although the legal confirmation of integration has had to be postponed the Central Councils of Toc H and the Women's Association, meeting jointly at Swanwick in April, took steps to ensure that the two sections will work even more closely together.

★ The Council called on Toc H members "to do all in their power to alleviate the plight of gypsies in this country".

★ Our declining membership and the need for members to know more about the different aspects of the Movement were among the other subjects discussed during the weekend.

This report has to be written in the immediate aftermath of the Central Council weekend. If it were possible to allow more time for calm reflection it may be that I would be able to take a rosier view. As it is I have to report a fairly widespread feeling of disappointment and frustration after a meeting which was largely devoted to the mass contemplation of the Toc H navel.

This is, perhaps, inevitable until integration finally takes place and the constitution can at last be forgotten. In fact, however, the constitutional business was disposed of speedily and efficiently. Sandy Giles, the new Director, summarised the complicated legal position with impressive clarity. It has not proved possible, as had been hoped, to amend the existing Toc H Royal Charter and a new Charter will therefore have to be drafted. Sandy stressed, however, that the work already done would not be wasted, but would form the basis of the new Charter.

When integration will finally become a legal fact is still anyone's guess but in order to ensure that the momentum is not lost the Council took two major decisions. It was agreed that as from the date of the Council meeting all members of the Women's Association shall, unless they individually opt out, become members of Toc H Inc. also. And, more important, the Council recommended



that "as far as is practicable the Central Executive, in respect of headquarters and field staff, financial matters and electoral arrangements for Councillors, arrange matters from the date of this resolution so as to anticipate the working arrangements which will come into being under complete integration".

The Councils of Toc H and the Women's Association also agreed to elect only 10 members each to the Central Executive Committees, thus making the Joint meetings slightly less unwieldy, and bringing the number of members more nearly in line with the Executive of the integrated Movement. For reasons of continuity the Councils also recommended "those constituencies which have to elect Councillors following this Council meeting where possible to re-elect the retiring Councillors".

Incidentally, the fact that the Council itself is now very much an integrated body was underlined by the presence as Councillors of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Cozens, from Sussex, who celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on the Saturday.

Bicycle made for two

"Integration is like a bicycle; you either move on or you fall off." This quotation prefaced the interim Annual Report produced for Councillors—the official Report, with audited Accounts of Toc H and of the Women's Association, will be published and circulated to Branches in the autumn. George Davis and Vera Harley continued the "bicycle made for two" act by speaking alternately to introduce the Report. Vera said that she didn't feel that the declining membership figures were unduly depressing as we were "living in an age when people don't like signing on dotted lines". She also stressed the need to recruit more younger women to the staff. George, describing Toc H as "a living and growing Movement," mentioned two encouraging signs of new growth he had found on a recent visit to India. "During my time as Administrator," he said, "I gave my support to people who wanted to experiment. I would like to see many more experiments with different kinds of Branches."

As is traditional at Central Council meetings there was a lengthy debate on the subject of our declining membership. A resolution, proposed by Jacques Weber and seconded by Harry Brier (both members of the Central Executive), would have made "the expansion and strengthening of local representations of Toc H a specific and immediate objective of future policy". The resolution, which was defeated, stated that "the future of the Movement, now as always, depends upon the growth of the ordinary membership, both in numbers and quality", and it called for the



The editor, seated centre, with Johnny MacMillan, Mike Jones and Simon Allard.
Photos: Skegg Blanchard

its a long long way to integration

Ken Prideaux-Brune

setting up of "an Ordinary Membership Working Group, whose whole task shall be to further this objective".

Underlying the resolution was a feeling that, as Norman Chidley, East London, put it: "The Central Executive spends too little time dealing with Branch matters". There are committees dealing with Marks and with Projects but, said Jacques Weber, "we have no one committee responsible for Branches and Branch members". "The Branch," said Bob Richards, North Wales, "is still the basis and prop of Toc H."

Although the resolution was defeated and an attempt, later in the meeting, to propose an amendment to it was unsuccessful, there was nonetheless widespread agreement on the need for recruitment. There was equally

LEFT: Jimmy Cliffe, Yorks.
Ted Curry, C.E.C., Harry
Brier, C.E.C.



RIGHT: Marjorie Berry, the
Countess of Harrowby,
Vera Harley.



general agreement, however, that to appoint yet another committee would solve nothing. "What would the working party do?" asked Alec Back, Kent. "What particular methods would they use? Branches themselves, members themselves, should do it." And Frank Oliver, South Western, added: "Recruitment can only be done properly by the people on the spot." In contrast to the general picture of decline and decay presented during the debate, Alan Hunt said that in Surrey the number of people actively involved with Toc H had increased over the past four years from 175 to between 350 and 450.

The needs of the world

Only one debate dragged the Council's attention away from the details of the organisation of Toc H and focused it instead on the needs of the world which we exist to help to meet. The particular need was that of the gypsies and a resolution was passed "asking District Teams and local Branches to put pressure on appropriate local Councils to provide suitable sites" and "urging members of Toc H to do all in their power to alleviate the plight of gypsies in this country". Although a further clause "instructing the Central Executive to forward this resolution to Her Majesty's Government" was defeated, the Council took a clear and unequivocal stand on this issue.

In proposing the resolution Eric Hodges, Western, told a number of horrifying stories of harassment of gypsies. "The plain fact of the matter," he said, "is that no one wants them around *their* village or *their* town." He stressed that the Caravan Sites Act 1968 could require local authorities to provide sites for gypsies and other travellers. He was simply asking the Government to implement the legislation that already existed. His seconder, Les Brooke, Western, referred to the "almost complete illiteracy" of gypsy children. "Education," he said, "would be the greatest single benefit to flow from a policy of resettlement. If the children aren't educated there's no hope of improvement."

Mrs. Freda Hurt, Notts & Derby, said that

she had been to see the Town Clerk of Mansfield about the problem and had been assured that the town was hoping to provide a site with the co-operation of the County Council. Mrs. Margaret Wollacott, South Western, pointed out that though the men's Council had not previously taken a stand on an issue of this kind the women had done so on the question of drugs.

Wally Jones, East London, raised the question of cost but John Mitchell, Midland Regional staff, pointed out that "sites are cheaper than constant harassment". In reply to those who said that Toc H should work personally to help gypsies but should not lobby on their behalf, John said that this personal work could only be undertaken if gypsies are allowed "to stay long enough in one place for us to get to know them. There is an effective lobby to prevent the Act being implemented. We need another lobby on behalf of individuals who are not articulate and cannot speak for themselves."

We then came to the great non-event of the weekend, the "discussion" on the Questionnaire. Sandy Giles mentioned some of the points on which there seemed to be general agreement and pointed to some of the major questions that had still to be resolved (as outlined in the April issue of *Point Three*). He said that the Central Executive had decided it would be wrong to come to the Council at this stage with definite policy recommendations. The debate on the Questionnaire would be a "continuing process". However, since not one Councillor wished to contribute to this continuing process, the Council passed on to the next business.

It was proposed by Alan Pratt, Kent, and seconded by Harold Naylor, South East London, that 1970 should be an "information year during which greater use should be made of *Point Three* to explain aspects of Toc H and its methods of work, and Branches should be challenged to use material published in *Point Three* to develop their effectiveness in shaping the future of our Movement".

In the discussion on the resolution, which was carried, a number of speakers stressed the

lack of knowledge in many Branches about different aspects of the Movement and pointed out that it was one thing to distribute information and another to persuade people to read and remember it. It was left to Iain Fraser, Northern Regional staff, and Bob Knight, Administrative Padre, to shift the debate to a deeper level. Iain said that communication involved not merely the conveying of information but also the transmission of experience. "You cannot transmit experience impersonally," he said. He called for the recruitment of groups of members up and down the country who would be prepared to be trained for leadership and for the art of transmitting "the experience we mutually hold".

The corporate spirit

The Council also discussed the question of Associates in the light of the resolution passed at last year's Council. It was reported that the Central Guard of the Lamp was still considering the administrative problems involved, in particular whether it was feasible to include the Builders among the Associates.

Mrs. Wyn Wheadon, on behalf of the South Dorset District, asked about the position after integration of the days of prayer at present observed by Toc H and the Women's Association. Bob Knight, Administrative Padre, said that the Central Guard of the Lamp had been considering this question. "Rather than lose anything," he said, "we want to gain. We would like to increase our opportunities for this kind of expression of the corporate spirit of Toc H." In addition to the observance of Michaelmas Day and the World Chain of Light the Guard was considering an occasion sometime in the Spring, which would be primarily an occasion of thanksgiving. Present thinking was that this might be a private, rather than a corporate, occasion, when members would be asked to set aside some time during an agreed week to make their own act of thanksgiving.

So the Council meeting ground to a halt. I must confess to having failed in some places in this report to preserve that reverence to-

wards the Central Council that might be thought appropriate. But in the long run honesty is of more value than reverence; and it would be wrong to pretend that this year's Central Council meeting was other than depressing. Only in the gypsy debate did we look beyond ourselves; and in looking at ourselves we were more concerned with comparatively trivial administrative matters than with the major policy issues that face the Movement—the priorities in the deployment of staff, the future of the Marks, the role of Toc H in urban areas, to name but three. No weekend which brings so many people together can be dismissed simply as a waste of time and money but it is clear that before next year a great deal of thought must be given to making better use of our time together.

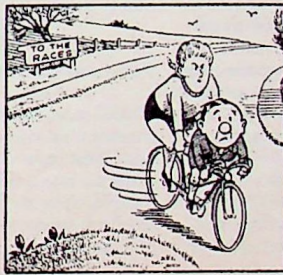
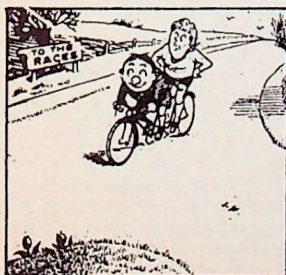


The conference session is over. But the talk goes on late into the night.



SPORTING SAM

Grateful acknowledgements to Reg. Wootton and the Sunday Express.



A tandem ride was the theme adopted by George Davis and Vera Harley for their Annual Report remarks at Central Council this year.

A Councillor speaks (1)



Pat Turner with Don Wilde, CEC.

"new leaders are waiting to play their part"

HUW GIBBS

It's all over. Another Central Council of Toc H has busily filled ash trays with dog ends and everyone with dismay. The last of the tables has been wiped clean and Hayes Conference Centre, looking now more like a Guards' depot with its neatly tucked beds and lined up chairs, is ready for the next conference. Will it be anything like our Central Council? For the sake of whoever follows, I hope not.

Councillors seem to be a peculiar mixture of contented, walking history books up to the period of 1918, and a somewhat ebullient variety of radicals intent on making Toc H function at all costs. In an attempt to cut through the august atmosphere which seems to prevent some Councillors from speaking their minds during sessions, I decided to corner a few in order to find out their personal views.

My first Councillor, pointed out to me by a member of the staff, turned out to be 60 inches of tightly packed dynamite by the name of Patricia Turner, from Bedford. It was Pat who, when the new corporate identity of the Movement was being discussed, said to the Council, "Well, it immediately registered with me, I must be the only intelligent one here". When you have to stand on tiptoe to use the microphone that takes some doing. After the debate I asked her what made her interject her remark at that point? "Well, they make me so mad," she snorted, "half of them don't understand it anyway."

Pat is married, with two young children, and works for Bedfordshire County Council. Dressmaking, knitting and listening to good records are her favourite pastimes. The surprising

thing to me was to discover that Pat had been a member for 17 years, she honestly doesn't look old enough!

She feels that integration is the most important step in the history of Toc H, but expressed regret that it has to take so long to achieve. "It's important that the public be made aware of the changes," she said, "once they see men and women working together they'll take more interest. For far too long the public has thought of Toc H as a men's club, with the women providing the eats."

The role of the Councillor, as Pat sees it, could be a vital one for the Movement. One of her ideas is that the territories be redefined so that Councillors cover a wider area. "This would prevent their becoming too parochial, and they would accumulate a much wider knowledge of Toc H methods of work," she explained.

She felt that Councillors would have to be carefully elected in future. "Many Councillors at the moment are not playing their full role and do not possess the right form of leadership for the tasks they are asked to perform." Pat feels that Councillors should be relieved of all other responsibilities in Toc H during their term of office.

Personal involvement

She is very enthusiastic about the move to re-introduce Toc H to cities and large towns, but feels that care must be taken to ensure that any new growth spreads outwards to envelop existing units and does not remain concentrated on city centres. "Toc H must take major decisions to help

minority groups," she insisted, "Once the public sees that we are prepared to commit ourselves to helping the gypsy and the 'meth' drinker and are not satisfied just to watch a little square box until we go square-eyed, they will respond in the way we would like. It takes courage to make your stand in the world today and we have proved our courage in many ways before. I know that there are other, younger people who have been inspired by our example and who are just waiting to take their part in reshaping the Movement."

She was anxious that concentration on city units should not entail neglect of the rural Movement. "Country Branches should be involved in some way with the experiment in their neighbouring town. The leaders should be prepared to include these Branches in the planning and discussions. Country members who are personally involved will get excited about what is happening and will tell others, and this is how it goes on." But, she insisted, involvement must not be merely by means of written reports, "it must be at personal level".

Pat is satisfied with the Regional system, and especially with the newly-formed Regional councils, which she has found most useful.

My final question was whether Pat was satisfied with the present organisation and information flow in the Movement. Her answer was "no". "It always seems such a long process to reach the final decision that I feel something must be altered to make the process speedier, but I don't know how it can be done."

Does anyone?

newspoint

TWO SPONSORED WALKS FOR TOC H FUNDS

Wolverton raise £1,000

Two Buckinghamshire Branches recently organised sponsored walks in aid of Toc H funds. The Bletchley walk was from Marble Arch to Bletchley—a distance of 44½ miles. Wolverton's walk attracted no less than 253 entrants, over half of whom completed the 27 mile course, and it is expected that the walk will show a profit to Toc H of something like £1,150.

The 41 entrants for the Bletchley walk were conveyed to London by coach in time for the 9 a.m. start from Marble Arch. The leaders set a cracking pace, very nearly reaching some of the five checkpoints before the tea and sandwiches were ready for them. The first man home, Peter Gray, was back in Bletchley by 7.22 p.m. In all 12 people completed the course, including 11-year-old Brian Matthews, the youngest entrant, who was seen dancing a jig as he approached the finish outside the Bletchley Council offices. The walk was the idea of Toc H member Mick Jones, who had the misfortune to be the only entrant to suffer anything more serious than blisters and sore feet—he tore a cartilage.

Top money spinner on the Wolverton walk was Nigel Bird, who, although he had to give up after 23 of the 27 miles, stands to receive from his sponsors the sum of £48 6s. Among the entrants was the chairman of the Urban Council, Dr. David Hall, whose 25 miles will earn

Toc H just over £23. The fastest finisher was Milford Callow, a member of Wolverton Athletic Club, who ran

the whole way. Also among the 133 finishers were two nine-year-olds, Robin Iles and Christopher Smith.



Six young ladies from Wolverton who were determined to have music wherever they went. Two transistor radios and a long chat about pop star favourites is a sure way of forgetting aching feet and legs.

Photo: Bucks. Standard.

TOC H GO HOME!

There was the new sign, complete with Lamp. It had been hand-painted by the Branch Padre, the Rev. W. D. Roberts, and Colwyn Bay Branch were very proud of it. But lurking unseen in the shadows were some shock troops from the Liberation Forces, and in the fresh light of day their handiwork was revealed for all to see. Daubed across the sign in white paint was "F.W.A." Branch members are not amused, particularly as that night there was to be a talk on fairmindedness!

"Solve a Problem" nights in Nottingham

Divorce, maintenance, hire purchase debts, landlord and tenant problems—these are just some of the subjects on which advice is given during the weekly "Solve a Problem" nights at the Nottingham Branch headquarters. The nights were the idea of a group of young professional men who asked the Branch to run an experimental advice centre because they were convinced that a great many people are frightened of approaching solicitors and accountants. Since the scheme started advice has been given on scores of problems, many of them referred by probation officers, welfare officers, the Telephone Samaritans and local clergy. The Branch stress

that the scheme offers advice only. "No representations are made on behalf of the people who come. They are directed to the place where they can obtain the assistance for their particular problems".

ROSES FOR DOR KNAP

Last autumn a note in *Point Three* asked readers if they would like to contribute towards the cost of rose bushes for Dor Knap. We are pleased to report that as a result it was possible to deliver in November 36 bushes and 2 climbers—the "Tommy Trinder" selection of varieties.

KIDNEY MACHINE APPEAL CLOSES

The Norfolk Division kidney machine appeal has finally closed. The total amount raised was £4,160, after deduction of a mere £19 for expenses. This is more than double the original target. Encouraged by the remarkable success of this appeal the Broads District have now launched an appeal for the Family Purse and their target is £500 by the end of March, 1970. Is it too much to hope that this target too will be left far behind?

Praise for Bingham's "flower people"

Phil Jacques

"The Flower People"—otherwise known as Bingham Branch—have recently received a bouquet in the form of a letter of appreciation sent to the Rural District Council by a passing motorist. "I was greatly cheered," wrote the motorist, "by the natural and beautiful display of daffodils alongside the main road." This is just one of many favourable comments received by the Branch.

Last autumn, depressed by the state of the village, the Branch wrote to the R.D.C. offering to provide the labour to tidy up the public grassed areas of the village if the R.D.C. would loan them the equipment. The Council agreed and

work commenced but the loan of equipment was later withdrawn. Undaunted, the Branch then applied to the Parish Council, who have bought equipment and made it available to the Branch on permanent loan.

This enabled the work to proceed. Bulbs were purchased and planted in bulk. The results, apart from the favourable comments, are that more people have joined the Branch in this and other work; half a ton of bulbs have been donated locally; and the Parish Council are now to enter the "best kept village" competition.

Kendal goes in for Comfort

Harold Speight

Tell it not in Gath, but it is a thought-provoking fact that we now meet under the symbol of the Blue Triangle . . . isosceles at that!

It is a sad story, but the lease was up and we had to leave the old beloved rooms which we had occupied for so many years and thus becoming "displaced persons," we found refuge 'neath the roof of the Y.M.C.A.!

Gone are those orgies of spring cleaning, scraping ceilings, floor polishing and painting. No more searching in that dark recess below the stairs for sticks and coal, no more beating a coughing retreat from a fire belching out clouds of smoke, and no more do the early birds shiver in the cold outside waiting for the man with the key. Though we may retain nostalgic memories of our old quarters and the men, good and true, who are "no more seen", we are now indeed in the lap of luxury, reclining on modern tubular chairs, brilliantly illuminated (the room, not us!), and comfortably heated by simply pressing a switch; in fact our room on earth has all the advantages of a modern hotel lounge which only lacks a bell-push to order "the same again please!" In these pleasant surroundings we hope to leap much higher and more joyously to our tasks for others.

QUESTIONNAIRE DISCUSSED

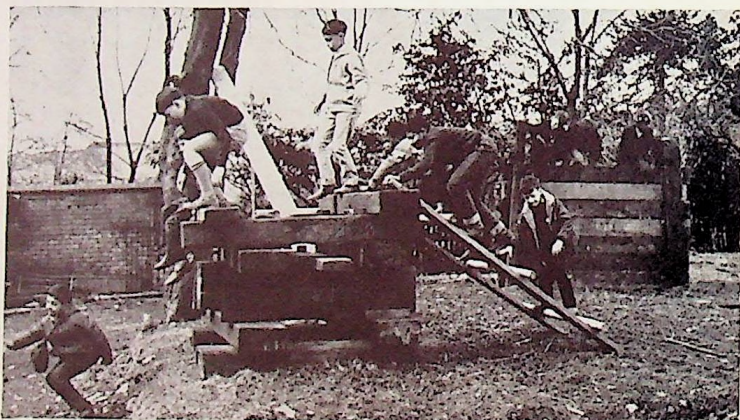
The Wolds District Team in Yorkshire are running a series of training courses in the District based on the Questionnaire. The first session was held in Pickering, where the new group hopes soon to attain Branch status. The discussion that evening was devoted entirely to the first question, concerning the definition of Toc H. "It wasn't planned that way," says District Correspondent Richard North, "This is just how the meeting turned out." In general the definition was regarded as adequate but the view was expressed, says Richard, that it might be better "if the community aspect was made clear first, then the testing of the Christian faith would follow more logically as the second limb of the definition". The question of whether standards can ever be imposed on people was raised and it was stressed that in Toc H the Christian faith is tested and not imposed on members or prospective members. "Some extraordinary examples were given," adds Richard, "of people who, though not themselves Christians, had, through Toc H, tested the truth of the Christian faith, had satisfied themselves of its meaning and purpose and had proceeded to spread it by their actions".

Insurance scheme in danger

The excellent and reasonably priced cover offered under the personal accident insurance policy has met with a disappointing response. Keith Rea, Finance Secretary, told the Central Council that only 5,000 Toc H members, men and women, had insured themselves under this scheme, compared to 10,500 last year. "The scheme," he said, "is in danger."

UP AND DOWN LIFE

If you're a parent you will think of ripped pants. No kid can resist the up and down challenge of an assault course like this one at Mark VI, Birmingham. What they can resist is the realisation that clothes' prices go up—never down! Photo: Birmingham Post & Mail.



MEDICAL ADVICE CENTRE OPENED

Residents of Talbot House on Tower Hill have for some time helped in the work among the homeless of the Men's Care Unit of St. George's Methodist Church, which was featured in *Point Three* last December. The latest development of this work, according to a report given at this year's Central Council meeting by Peter East, the Warden of Talbot House, is the opening of a medical advice centre staffed by medical students resident in Talbot House. The homeless men with whom the Men's Care Unit works are usually unwilling to go to a doctor and this development is an attempt to provide some of the medical attention they need. When the students are unable to deal with a case themselves they consult a qualified doctor by 'phone. The medical advice centre is open every Wednesday evening.



Peter East added that other residents have, for about a year, been running English classes for Pakistani children. A Scout group meets in the basement.

Sir Charles Trinder, Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by D. Pitman, Skipper, meets members of the Talbot House, Trinity Square, Scout Group. Photo: Bob Broeder.

This job grows on you

Members of Shelthorpe Branch have launched a project for 1969 at the C. of E. Children's Home nearby. They have begun by planting 18 dozen daffodil bulbs in the driveway and moving furniture during redecorations. We imagine there's a big sale for Radox bath salts in the neighbourhood.

Mayor for the second year running

Bewdley Branch are very much involved in the local political scene. One of their members, Walter Cross, has just been elected Mayor of Bewdley for the second year running and the Branch Chairman, Brian Jones, is a member of the Worcestershire County Council. The main job of the Branch is the organising of a very efficient "Meals on Wheels" service in the town.

News service for the blind

Although blind people hear the national news on radio and television they find it much more difficult to discover the local news, unless they live in one of the few places served by local radio. The latest Branch to attempt to fill this gap is Bourne End.

Toc H members tape-record the main news stories and features from the local papers. The tape-recording is taken to the home of a blind person who is allowed to keep it for 24 hours before it is collected and taken to someone else.

The scheme was launched with only one tape-recorder, which meant that recordings could only be circulated to six people. Already, however, as a result of a report in the *Bucks Free Press*, a second machine has been donated.

Help for widows and their children

Tolworth is one Branch that has recently received a request for help from Cruse Clubs, a national organisation concerned to help widows and their children with their inevitable problems. Cruse Clubs seek to provide support during the early period of bereavement and to help over such practical questions as budgeting, training and re-training

for work, health, educational problems, holidays and social needs. While much of their work involves skilled individual counselling there are many practical problems where the help of volunteers is needed. We understand that local Cruse Clubs would be glad to be in touch with Toc H Branches if contact has not already been made.

The Man from the Who?

During Jubilee Year the combined project of Toc H Branches in the Medway towns was to raise sufficient funds to provide the local W.R.V.S. with a van for their "Meals on Wheels" service locally.

The fund was not entirely exhausted, and with the money in hand they are now about to effect a "trade in" for a new vehicle.

Peter Flay, Toc H District Chairman, has been involved in the negotiations and during the course of a visit to the garage company through whom the exchange is taking place, he thought he was receiving a rather cool reception.

The reason, however, eventually became apparent when the negotiator from the garage company who seemingly only wanted to deal with the W.R.V.S. said, "Well, what is Toc H, the finance company?"

**EVERY DISTRICT NEEDS A
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT.
HAVE YOU GOT ONE?**

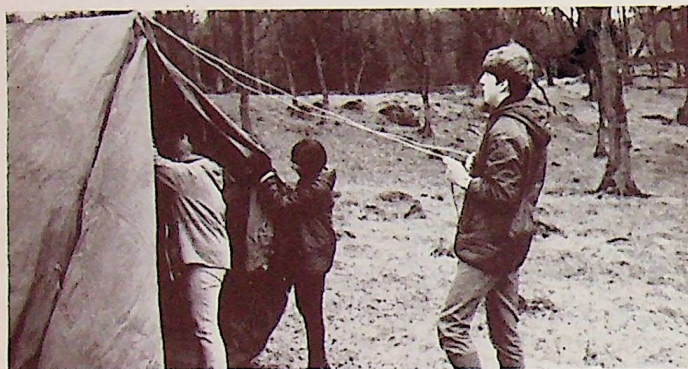


LEFT

Ilminster Branch members have discovered the way to a lady's heart. Mutton-chop sideburns, a bristling moustache and deft footwork in the military two-step. A bottle of rum helps, of course. The "Old Tyme" social organised by the Branch and the local RAOB, included cabaret, dancing, waiters and guests in costume and community singing.

Photo: D. J. Wheadon

picture point



ABOVE

Here are two of the Brookfield coal-heavers (Newspoint, May 1969), Tom Brown, on the left, and Ernie Levitt. Moving the cargo is the least of their problems it seems. Alan Peterson told us that at high tide the Branch risks capsizing a small boat negotiating old wharf pilings in a fast current and at low tide there is a twenty yard trudge through deep mud. But we are assured that the coal is still reaching the old folk.

Photo: Laune Shepherd.



TOP LEFT

This is a perfect illustration of right manipulation of a project labour force. The man, Andrew Walker in this case, has great difficulty holding onto two very heavy pieces of string, while the girls manage the easy task of erecting a tent. The project is one which took place under Tony Norman's supervision in the Lake District. He also took the photo.

Another photo of the Lake Windermere project. And again it's the girls doing the work. Digging a driveway for the hut on the Base Camp of the National Trust are Penny Oldfield and Celia Norgrove, both from Abbots Bromley School, Staffs.

Photo: Tony Norman

excavation in progress

ROY SWANN

Heard of DIG?

It is surprising how many people in Christian and social service organisations would raise an eyebrow if they were asked this question. DIG is not a geological survey—or an archaeological revelation—but a virile organisation fighting, and fighting hard, to breach the walls of officialdom and to secure a square deal for the millions of disabled folk in this country.

The Disabled Income Group has been in being for some three-and-a-half years. Its third annual general meeting took place last October at Westminster City Welfare Centre. Highlights of its progressive campaigning have been two Trafalgar Square rallies. At the second of these, Mrs. Judith Hart, then Minister of Social Security, was present to receive a petition from Mrs. Megan Du Boisson—the Honorary Director of the Group.

The inception and organisation of DIG has been spearheaded by handicapped folk themselves. Megan herself operates from a wheelchair, and many other disabled people, including Michael Flanders who is a DIG Patron, are at the back of her indefatigable work in religious, social and political fields.

Lord Soper, the Rt. Rev. Patrick Casey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, the Bishop of Willesden, Rabbi Nemeth for the Jewish Community, Lord Balniel for the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, Mrs. Margaret Wingfield for the Liberal Party and Mrs. Judith Hart, M.P., have all shared the same DIG platform. This reveals the extent of this comparatively small Group's influence on public opinion in influential circles.

The main object of the Group is to achieve recognition of severe disability whatever its cause may be, and "to secure the payment of a basic national disability income, with supplementary benefits, for all severely disabled persons ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom". DIG is also pledged to work for improvements in the social and economic position of the people they serve, to promote enquiry into their circumstances and to co-operate with other organisations having similar aims.

Having achieved a strong financial position

they plan a campaign of public education. Then an expansion of their own well-informed and much used advisory service. They are protesting strongly against the discrimination that exists between persons suffering from disability resulting from natural causes, and those with war disabilities.

The Disablement Income Group have many friends and supporters in the House of Commons. One of these is Jack Ashley, the M.P. for Stoke-on-Trent South, who became totally deaf about a year ago. Last July 16, he was able to lipread Mr. Speaker's consent and then introduced a Bill under the ten-minute rule. He asked the House, as a matter of urgency, to establish a commission to study the paying of a national disablement income, irrespective of the cause of the disability. This was passed unanimously.

In the Government White Paper on the Social Services, Mr. Richard Crossman advocates an "attendance allowance" to be paid to those with a handicap so severe that it makes them wholly or largely dependent on the help of others. The language of the section dealing with this matter is so vague that many disabled people are wondering if such an attendance allowance is subject to the cutting of the economic cloth, and are waiting anxiously for it to be formulated into more detail. The matter of a Disablement Commission is by-passed as being a purely departmental matter.

DIG members are being asked to make their voices heard over this. On February 21 a Bill designed to alleviate hardships, provide pensions and allowances and set up a special committee to advise on the care and welfare of the disabled, was brought before the House by Mr. James Prior, M.P. By a majority of 36 this was refused a second reading, but the fact that 76 out of a total of less than two hundred Members were in favour causes one to wonder what the result would have been had a free vote been taken.

The Group has come a long way. It still has a long way to travel but the driving force is there. Surely there are some ways in which Toc H, both at national and local levels, can link arms with this "ginger movement".

It needs all the extra impetus it can get.

Since this article went to press we have been saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Megan du Boisson, killed in a car accident on May 10.

a full circle

by
John
Punshon

On joining an Army unit in 1941 I found a small group of fellow soldiers meeting and was invited to join. It was a Toc H group. We talked of the principles and aims of Toc H. Led by a member, we continued to hold weekly meetings, the subject—taken over ten weeks—was a discussion of the Beveridge Report.

I really understood what Toc H was when, after an operation, I was told to take 14 days' leave and I was given to understand that it was all arranged. Sure enough, two tall fellows of middle age came next morning and took me and my haversack to Tel-Aviv. The building was a temporary Mark. During my stay a Toc H meeting was held and I was surprised to see the Army Surgeon was a member. Shortly after returning to duty we had an important parade, only for me to find that the two fellows who had taken me to Tel Aviv were high ranking Army and Naval officers.

The World Chain of Light was one of our highlights for two years, and we had great fun playing detectives and finding where we could join in the Ceremony, for by this time there were (due to posting) only two of us. Port Said and Cairo were our finds.

We two came home with our unit to prepare for D Day. I found myself left at Liverpool in charge of a baggage party—dressed in tropical kit in early January! Literally we were 20 orphans in that city, no feeding or accommodation had been arranged for us and we had little money. I felt if we could find a Toc H meeting place we could get help, and after many quests we found Mark XXIV. There we were fed and given some of their precious soap and taken to the showers. True Toc H.

In the following years I made it a point to find a Toc H Branch wherever I was stationed. Some were pathetic, the elders trying to keep

FOR GOODNESS, GOODNESS,
GOODNESS SAKE

don't
say
brown
say
Hovis

the Branch alive till the "boys" came home, others were apathetic and stagnating.

From my early days of talking about Toc H ideals I must confess I was disillusioned by finding a tight family, nothing going on outside—at one Branch I asked who Jobby was, only to be told that they did not need one.

My re-introduction came once again through help and encouragement given to me by Toc H, and at last, after 26 years, I find myself associated with the true spirit of Toc H.

obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November: Aubrey Powell (Far Cotton). **In December:** George A. Mackay (Nairn), Charles E. Place (Malton). **In January:** Edward B. Jenner (Northern Area). **In February:** Annie F. Forsyth (Nairn), Cyril H. Gascoyne (Cuffley & Goffs Oak). **In March:** Claude E. Anson (Cawood), Frederick W. Bond (Buckhurst Hill), Kenneth W. Brooks (Willenhall), Harry F. Carrow (Harrow), C. Jack Chenery (East Anglia Area), Rhoda A. Draper (Southill), Violet Hardeman (R.H.H.I., Putney), Ruth E. Harrison (Central), Elsie V. Ransom (Aldwick), Thomas L. Taylor (Clitheroe), Brian E. Wilde (Stourport-on-Severn). **In April:** John Badger (Low Hill), Henry G. Barfield (Far Cotton), John W. R. Dukes (Saltburn-by-the-Sea), Edward J. Elliott (Verwood), Charles H. Green (Calstock), Gladys V. Harrison (Tetbury), William Orton (Ashby de la Zouche), Nellie Penfold (Scarborough), the Rev. John H. Porter (St. Budeaux), Daisy V. Horne (Central), Martha A. Stacey (Fleet), Richard F. Stevens (Cromer).

We give thanks for their lives.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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